

BRT Glossary of Terms

Articulated Vehicle	A long bus consisting of two sections that are joined by a flexible joint near the center of the vehicle. This joint enables the vehicle to turn corners despite its long length.
Bi-directional Bus Lane	A single lane designated solely for use by buses. Buses can typically take turns traveling in opposite directions.
Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)	A premium bus service with limited stops that typically has greater distances between stations.
Busway	A constructed roadway built exclusively for use by buses. Busways can be built adjacent to or in the center of existing roadways. They can also be built along their own separate alignment.
Dedicated Lane	A travel lane located within a roadway with special markings indicating that it is for use by buses only.
Dwell Time	The amount of time it takes for a bus to load and unload passengers.
Guideway	A running way constructed for specialized vehicles. The system aides in the steering of the vehicle.
Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS)	A system of technology that uses advanced communication systems between vehicles, signals and other infrastructure to ensure safe, efficient operation.
Level Boarding	A system of boarding where the floor of the vehicle is level with the station platform or boarding area. This is often used as a method for decreasing the time to load and unload passengers.
Multiple Door Boarding	A system of boarding that allows passengers to board at any door of a vehicle. This boarding practice is typically associated with off-board fare collection .
Near Level Boarding	A system of boarding where the vehicle floor is close to the height of the station platform or boarding area.
Off-board Fare Collection	A system of fare collection that involves payment prior to boarding the vehicle. This reduces the time it takes to board passengers. Off-board fare collection includes multi-ride passes purchased in advance or ticket vending machines typically located on station platforms.
On-board Fare Collection	A system of fare collection that involves payment as passengers are boarding the vehicle. This adds to the amount of time it takes to board passengers.
Platform	A designated boarding area at stations where passengers get on and off the vehicle. It also serves as a waiting area for passengers waiting for the next bus.
Queue Jump Lanes	Short lane segments at intersections that allow buses to bypass general traffic that is stopped at a traffic signal, allowing the bus to get to the front of the line. Typically the lane is coordinated with a special signal that provides the bus with an early green light before the general traffic.
Real-time Information	Electronic signs located on vehicles and stations indicating the arrival of the next bus or stop.

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Repurposed Lane	A lane that is converted from an existing use to use by buses or other transit vehicles. Existing uses can include: travel lanes, parking, shoulder, etc.
Reversible Bus Lane	A single lane designated solely for use by buses. The direction in which buses travel is determined by the amount of passengers traveling in a particular direction.
Right-of-Way (ROW)	An established horizontal width which is not privately owned. ROW may not be fully developed by the construction of a roadway.
Shared Lanes	Lanes that permit more than one type of vehicular use.
Shelter	A structure constructed at a station that protects passengers from the elements.
Span of Service	The time of day from when service starts and when service ends.
Stations	A designated area where buses load and unload passengers.
Ticket Vending Machine (TVM)	A machine that collects fares and dispenses tickets at stations.
Transit Signal Preemption	Traffic signal treatments that grants top priority to transit vehicles whenever they approach an intersection.
Transit Signal Priority	Traffic signal treatments that detect the location of a vehicle and based on its location will provide an early green light or extend a green light allowing the vehicle to pass through the intersection.
Transportation Systems Management (TSM)	A system of traffic treatments and service enhancements that uses existing resources to improve transit reliability and performance.